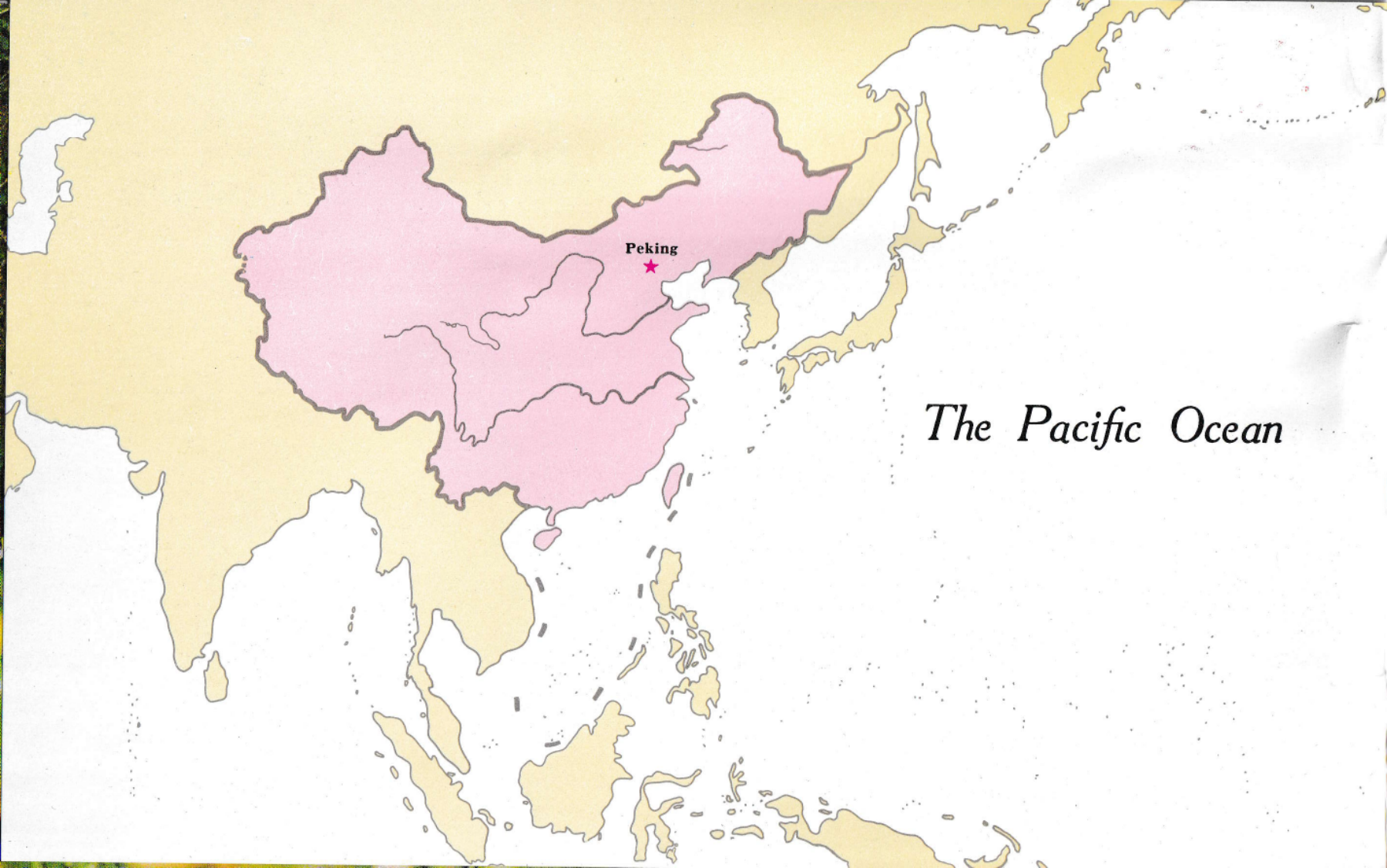
CHINA
– A Brief Survey

中国简况


Peking
The Pacific Ocean

Vast Territory

The People's Republic of China is situated in the eastern part of Asia on the west coast of the Pacific Ocean. China covers approximately 9,600,000 sq.km. and has land boundaries over 20,000 km. in length. The distance from east to west measures well over 5,000 km. and from north to south, over 5,500 km. When the sun is rising over the Wusuli River in the northeast, the Pamirs in the west are still in darkness. Whilst the north is a mass of flurrying snow in the depths of winter, spring sowing is already under way on Hainan Island. The Tsengmu Reef, the southernmost part of China, lies close to the Equator and stays hot all the year round.

To the east and south of the mainland of China lie the Pohai, Yellow Sea, East China Sea and the South China Sea. Whilst the Pohai is an inland sea, the Yellow Sea and the East and South China Seas are linked with the Pacific. There are over 5,000 islands scattered off the shore, of which the biggest is Taiwan, with Hainan next in size. These two islands are extremely rich in natural resources which have earned them the name of "China's treasure islands." Along China's coastline from north to south there are the well-known ports of Talien, Chinhuangtao, Tientsin, Tsingtao, Shanghai, Whampoa, Chankiang as well as the ports of Keelun and Kaohsiung in Taiwan Province.

The four principal plateaux are the Chinghai-Tibet Plateau, Yunnan-Kweichow Plateau, Inner Mongolian Plateau and the Loess Plateau. The Chinghai-Tibet Plateau lies at an average of over 4,000 m. above sea-level and has long been known as "the roof of the world." The Qomolangma Feng, the highest peak in the world, is 8,848 m. above sea-level and is located on the Chinese-Nepalese border. The plains cover a total of 1,000,000 sq.km. The three biggest plains are the Northeast Plain, North China Plain and the Middle and Lower Yangtze Plain.

China is a country with bountiful water resources. The longest river is the Yangtze, which is 5,800 km. long and drains a basin of over 1,800,000 sq.km. The 5,464 km. long Yellow River is the second longest and drains an area of over 750,000 sq.km. Its basin is the birthplace of Chinese history and the cradle of Chinese culture. China has about 370 large lakes.

The climate is very varied and takes in tropical, subtropical, temperate and frigid zones although most of the country lies in the temperate belt. China is rich in natural resources. The south abounds in rice, the north and west produce wheat, barley, millet and maize. Soyabeans, sorghum and wheat are grown abundantly in the northeast. Cotton is the principal industrial crop. China is one of the world's leading producers of tea and soyabeans. Underground mineral resources include coal, iron, petroleum, copper, aluminium, tungsten, antimony, molybdenum, tin, manganese, lead, zinc and mercury.

China is a unified multi-national country with nearly

The Great Hall of the People, Peking.

Heilungkiang Province in northeast China, known across the land as the "green treasury," is rich in forest resources. Picture shows a plane on patrol.

Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region on the northwest border is one of China's major livestock areas. Grazing sheep at the foot of the Tienshan Mountains.

800 million industrious and courageous people. The Han nationality makes up 94% of the total population, whilst the remaining 6% are composed of 54 fraternal nationalities, including the Mongolian, Hui, Tibetan, Uighur, Miao, Yi, Chuang, Puyi, Korean, Manchu and Kaoshan nationalities. Most of them are concentrated in the northwest, southwest and northeast of the country.

China has 22 provinces, 5 autonomous regions and 3 municipalities directly under the central authority (Peking, Shanghai and Tientsin). There are altogether over 2,000 counties.

Peking is situated on the northwest of the North China Plain. It covers an area of approximately 17,800 sq.km. and has a population of over 7,500,000 people. Built in 937 A.D. it has a history of 800 years as a capital. With many famous historical sites, ancient and beautiful Peking is a city with a glorious revolutionary tradition. Today it is the hub of China's politics, economy, culture and communications.

The Five-Star National Flag flutters over the Hsisha Islands.

In recent years, farm output on China's Tibetan Plateau on the "roof of the world" in the frigid zone has risen by big margins over large areas.

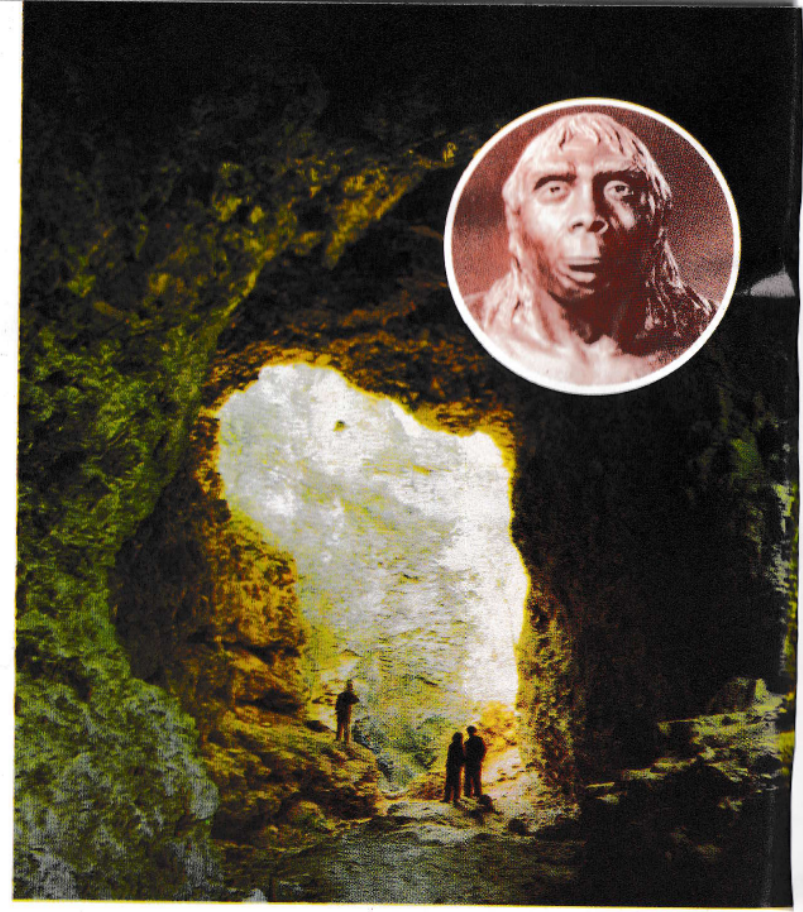
Triumphantly Along the Socialist Road

China is a country with a long history and an ancient civilization. About four to five hundred thousand years ago, a kind of primitive man — "Peking Man," lived and laboured in the area of Choukoutien, 48 km. to the southwest of Peking. Between 1963-1964 the cranium and lower jaw-bone of "Lantien Man" dating back to 600,000 years ago were discovered at Lantien in the Province of Shensi. These people went through a long period of classless primitive society. The history of China provable by written sources alone covers nearly 4,000 years, dating back to the collapse of the first classless primitive commune, through the slave and feudal societies up to the present day.

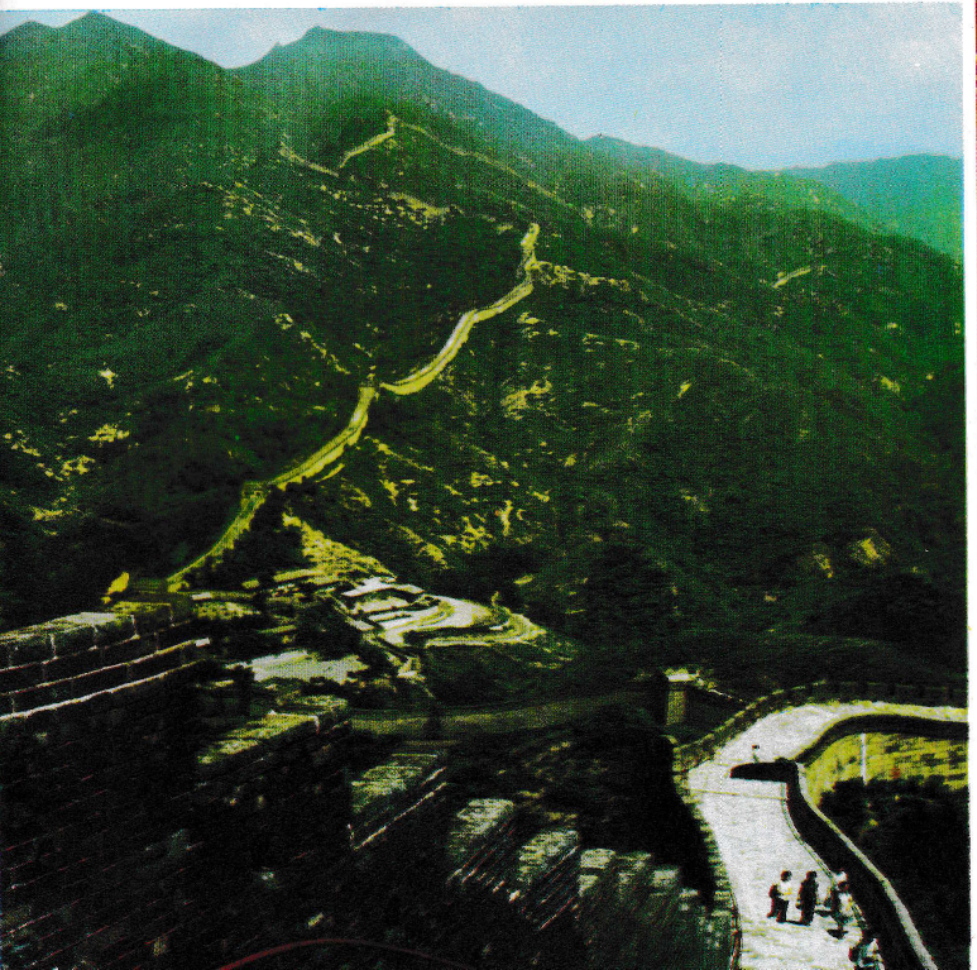
As early as 400 B.C. China had entered the feudal society. Historically, it was the uprisings and wars of the peasantry against the ruthless economic exploitation and political oppression of the landlord class that pushed Chinese society forward. After the 1840 Opium War, China degenerated into a semi-feudal, semi-colonial country. But the traditionally revolutionary Chinese people of all nationalities never ceased in their struggle against imperialist aggression and feudal rule. Influenced by the Russian Socialist October Revolution led by the revolutionary teacher, Lenin, the Communist Party of China was gloriously founded by the Chinese people's great leader, Chairman Mao Tsetung on July 1st, 1921. Integrating the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism with the concrete practice of the Chinese revolution, the Communist Party of China led the Chinese people, through 28 years of the most heroic armed struggle to win victory for the New Democratic Revolution. On October 1st, 1949, Chairman Mao solemnly declared the founding of the People's Republic of China on the Tien An Men Rostrum in Peking. **"From then on the Chinese people, numbering a quarter of the world's population, have stood up."**

The founding of the People's Republic of China marks the fundamental ending of the period of New Democratic Revolution and the beginning of a new phase in the history of socialist revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat. The new Constitution promulgated in 1975 points out that the People's Republic of China is a socialist state of the dictatorship of the proletariat led by the working class and based on the alliance of workers and peasants. The face of China has been greatly changed during the past 20-odd years. Old China, poor and backward, has changed into socialist New China with the beginnings of prosperity. Under the guidance of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and under the leadership of the Communist Party of China we have in the main completed the socialist transformation of the ownership of the means of production and have carried

out successive socialist revolutions, each time more deeply, on the political and ideological fronts. We have won big victories in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in which the bourgeois headquarters of Liu Shao-chi and of Lin Piao have been smashed, Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought has permeated people's thinking, socialist new things have bloomed everywhere, and the dictatorship of the proletariat has been further consolidated. Our socialist construction is briskly advancing as we persevere in the general line of **going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism** and continue to apply the policy of **taking agriculture as the foundation and industry as the leading factor** and a series of policies of walking on two legs, to build China independently and self-reliantly through hard struggle, diligence and frugality. An independent and fairly complete system of industry and of national economy as a whole based on socialist agriculture is taking shape. At present the people of all our nationalities are studying conscientiously Chairman Mao's important instruction on the question of theory and Marxist theory on the dictatorship of the proletariat. With rising consciousness of class struggle and the struggle between the two lines, they are all the more enthusiastically grasping revolution, promoting production and working hard to build China into a powerful modern socialist country before the end of the century.



The home of Peking Man (Sinanthropus Pekinensis) — the cave inhabited by Peking Man at Choukoutien. Upper right: Reconstructed (female) head of Peking Man.



The Great Wall, one of the most gigantic engineering projects in Chinese history.

The meeting place of the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China (Shanghai).

Agriculture the Foundation of National Economy

Over 80 per cent of China's population lives in the rural areas.

Under the long sway of feudal exploitation, and especially during the hundred years and more before liberation under the cruel oppression of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism, old China's farm and subsidiary production were all in a state of decline, and the peasant masses lived in extreme poverty.

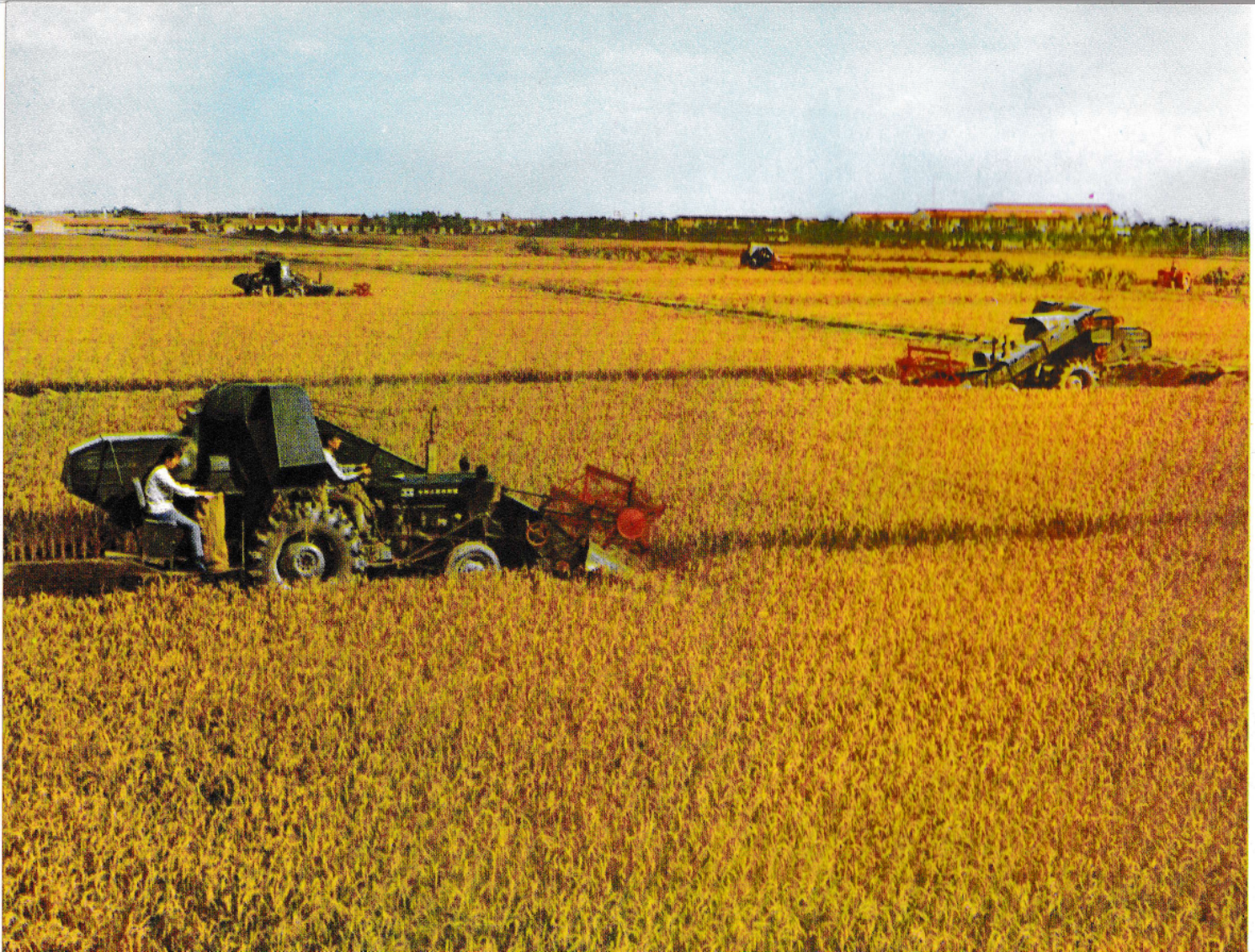
With liberation, countrywide land reform was carried out, followed by the organization of cooperatives and the establishment of people's communes. The broad masses of peasants have taken the road of socialist collectivization of production.

A profound implementation of the policies: **"Taking agriculture as the foundation and industry as the leading factor"** and **"Taking grain as the key link and ensuring an all-round development"** brought about a rapid development of agricultural production. There have been rich harvests for the last thirteen years running. The historical phenomena of the north always transporting grain from the south has now been initially changed; China today has grain enough and to spare. This fully demonstrates the superiority of the people's commune. While China's population has increased 60 per cent since the liberation of the country, grain output has increased 140 per cent and cotton 470 per cent. In a country like ours with a population of nearly 800 million, we have succeeded in ensuring the people their basic needs in food and clothing.

The Tachai Production Brigade is a national pace-setter in agriculture. It is located in the Taihang Mountains, over 1,000 metres above sea level, of the north China Province of Shansi. Before liberation, Tachai was a poor mountain hamlet, with eighty-odd households consisting of some 400 people. They worked only 53 hectares of farmland which was divided into more than 4,000 strips spread out over harsh gullies, ridges and hillslopes. The soil was thin and erosion was serious. Grain yield per hectare was only 750 kg. After liberation, the Tachai peasants were organized and advanced persistently along the road of socialist collectivization. Through more than 20 years of arduous struggle, they have built stone retaining walls across gullies and slopes to form terraced fields. As a result, grain output has steadily increased to more than 7,500 kg per hectare. Today, Tachai is a thriving new socialist village. The great call: **"In agriculture, learn from Tachai"** issued to the whole nation by the great leader of the Chinese people, Chairman Mao Tsetung, indicated the road for rapidly developing socialist agriculture. The principles of putting proletarian politics in command and giving priority to Mao Tsetung Thought, the spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle and the communist style of cherishing the state and the collective, to which the Tachai Brigade has been adhering, have become good examples for the Chinese peasants. At present, a vigorous mass movement for agriculture to learn from Tachai is in full swing throughout the countryside, and has become a great motive force in pushing forward the development of socialist agriculture.

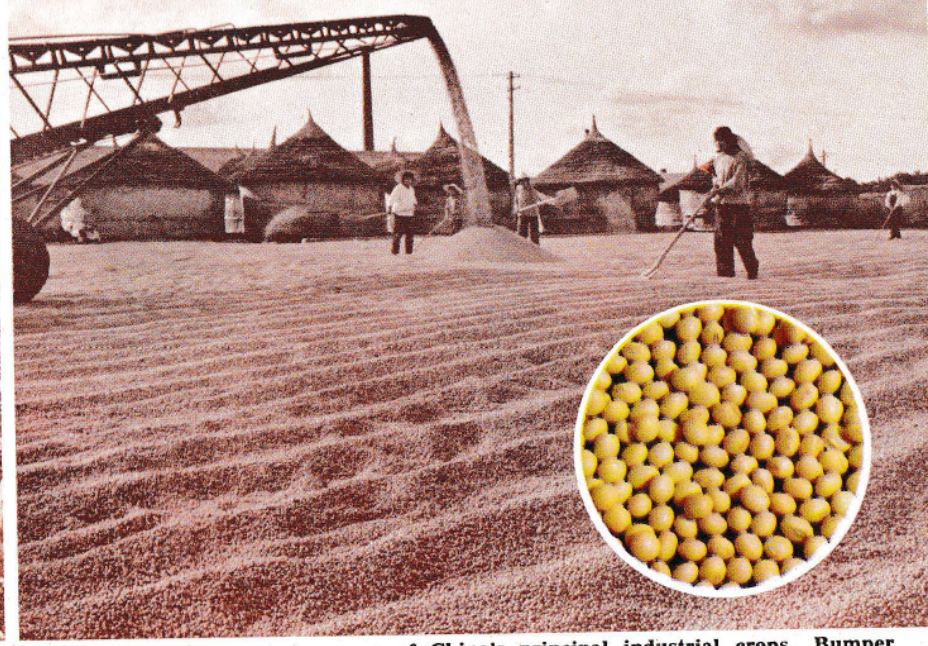
Water conservancy is the lifeblood of agriculture. Prior to liberation, many rivers overflowing their banks almost

Displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work, the poor and lower-middle peasants of the Tachai Brigade have set successive new records in transforming nature. Picture shows Tachai today.



Rich harvests have been gathered over successive years on Shanghai's outskirts.

Increasing cotton yields, to supply more materials for industry.



Oil-bearing crops are one of China's principal industrial crops. Bumper harvests of famous northeastern soyabeans have been successively reaped.

every year caused disastrous floods. After liberation, China built water conservancy projects and harnessed rivers to overcome successively the age-old scourges of flood and drought. This has primarily changed the look of the rivers and the farming conditions.

There have been massive increases in the installation of electrically operated drainage and irrigation equipment whose total installed capacity now reaches 40 million h.p. Thanks to these water conservancy works, farmland under irrigation has increased markedly.

Linhsien county in Honan Province emerged as an advanced unit in water conservancy. It nestles in the Taihang Mountains, and in the past used to suffer from a dearth of water. Relying on the collective forces of the people to open mountains and lead in water, Linhsien county, after a decade of strenuous labour, completed a canal 1,500 km. long, — the "Red Flag Canal." The builders cut across 1,250 rock peaks, drilled 180 tunnels and built 150 aqueducts, to bring in water diverted from the Chang River many kilometers away, serving nearly 40,000 hectares of the county's farmland.

Bringing into full play the superiority of the collective economy of the people's communes to go in for water conservancy projects and farmland improvement in a big way. Picture shows a section of the Red Flag canal in mountainous Linhsien County of Honan Province.

After the organization of people's communes, Chairman Mao pointed out: **"The fundamental way out for agriculture lies in mechanization."** On the basis of agricultural collectivization, Chairman Mao's directives on the realization of agricultural mechanization have been conscientiously carried out throughout the country. Factories making tractors, walking tractors, motors and engines have been set up in all parts of China, 96 per cent of the counties have their own farm machinery repair and manufacturing plants. More and more tractors, drainage and irrigation machinery and farm product processing machinery are being provided for the countryside. The purchasing of this farm machinery mainly relies on collective economic accumulation, with subsidiary assistance from the state. In recent years, the pace of agricultural mechanization has been growing fast.

China works out the national economic plan in this order of priorities: agriculture, light industry, heavy industry. As agriculture develops it will provide more grain and funds for industry; it will enable the countryside, as industry's biggest market, to buy more industrial goods and will free more labor power for industry. It will also provide more and better raw materials for light industry, which gets about 70 per cent of these from agriculture. The growth of light industry, in its turn, will promote the growth of heavy industry.

Rapid Expansion of Light Industry

China's light industry is expanding rapidly and is playing an important role in **developing the economy and ensuring supplies,** raising the people's living standards, increasing commodities for the home market and foreign trade, and accumulating funds for socialist construction.

Persisting in the policy of simultaneously developing the central and local enterprises, our light industrial authorities have been developing light industry under unified state planning and in a manner appropriate to local conditions. At present big, modern enterprises, the backbone of the industry, as well as small and medium-sized ones, have been built across the country. They produce most of the consumer goods needed for the area, and new varieties of goods are increasing.

The irrational lopsided concentration of light industry in a few cities along the coast, far away from the sources of raw materials and the consumer markets, has been and still is undergoing rapid readjustment. Now almost every province, municipality or autonomous region has modern cotton textile mills of its own. Light industry has also made big strides in remote areas and areas inhabited by minority nationalities. Paper mills, sugar, leather and match factories, and woollen mills have been set up one after the other on the Tibetan Plateau where modern industries were non-existent before liberation. A number of light industries, such as chemical fibres, plastics and plastic goods, detergents, synthetic fatty acids, compound essences, watches, bicycles, sewing machines, cameras, optical glass and photosensitive material have been established. Light industry has gradually been enabled to develop in an all-round way and present a fairly complete range of products.

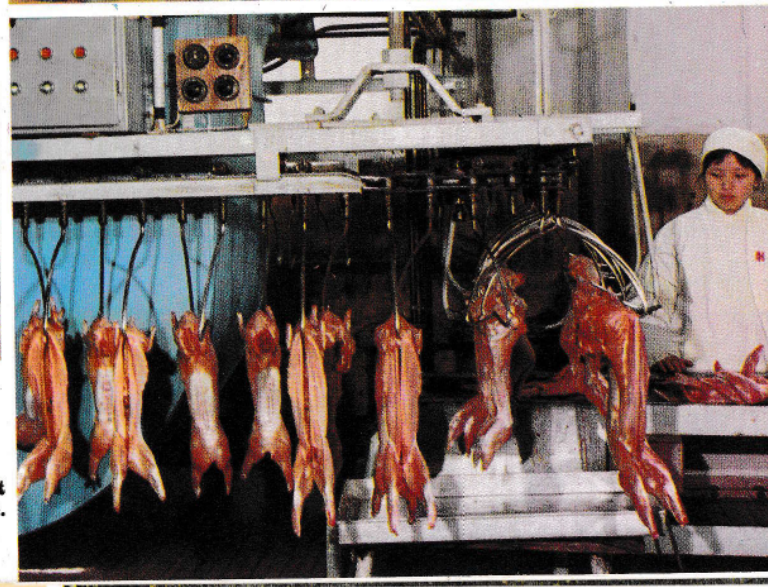
At present, China's light industry embraces several dozen major trades, turning out over 10,000 kinds of products. Those trades such as cotton textile, silk, machine-made paper, sugar-refining and salt have grown tremendously since liberation. In 1974, the output of their products increased several to ten- or twentyfold compared with figures in the post-liberation period. Production of bicycles and sewing machines increased over 60 and 40 times respectively. Compared with 1965, the year before the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution began, production of wrist watches in 1974 increased six times, transistor radios over eleven times and chemical fibres nearly trebled.

Advances in modern scientific technology particularly that of such industries as the metallurgical, coal and petrochemical industries provide growing sources of industrial raw materials for light industry. While light industry at the same time makes use of agricultural raw materials, the ratio of industrial raw materials used is nevertheless steadily growing in importance. Extensive development is also being made in the multiple use of resources, thus what used to be waste is turned into good use and harmful things transformed to advantage. This not only makes for economy for the state and increases raw material sources but also lessens industrial pollution of the environment and helps industrial and agricultural production.

Known as "the Eastern Land of Silk", China has a history of several thousand years in silk production. Here is a workshop of a silk textile mill in Hangchow.

One of the remarkable inventions of ancient China, porcelain is appreciated for its beauty and usefulness. Here is a shop of the Tangshan Porcelain and Pottery Factory.

Watch-making is one of China's new industries.



The food industry has grown greatly to meet the needs of the people and foreign trade.

Under the leadership of their great leader Chairman Mao, the Chinese people of all nationalities unite as one and advance boldly.

Developing Heavy Industry by Self-Reliance

In developing her national economy, China balances the relations between industry and agriculture, the two must grow together, but industry should play the leading role.

Old China had practically no heavy industry to speak of, there were only a few assembly and repair workshops. In contrast, new China now provides fuel, raw materials as well as equipment for agriculture, industry, national defence and scientific research. An independent, fairly integrated industrial system is gradually being built up.

As Chairman Mao has pointed out, in the development of industry, we must **"take steel as the key link."** China's steel production in 1974 increased 120 per cent over 1964, with coal gaining 92 per cent, petroleum 660 per cent, electrical generating power 200 per cent, chemical fertilizer 350 per cent, tractors 540 per cent. In the development of our socialist industry, a number of large modern enterprises have been built; these are the mainstay of China's industry. At the same time, the better to bring the enthusiasm of the masses into play and to accelerate the development of industry, a large number of small and medium enterprises have been built all over the country. Nearly half of China's 2,000 and more counties have set up small chemical fertilizer plants which account for over 50 per cent of the country's synthetic ammonia production. Eighty per cent of the counties have small cement works producing over half the country's total. Every province, municipality or autonomous region has built its own small or medium iron and steel mills. Many counties have opened small coal mines and built hydro-electric power stations.

China follows the mass line by organizing three-in-one combinations of workers, technicians and cadres and arranges cooperation among producers, users and research units in making technical innovations and scientific experiments. These efforts have resulted in many items of advanced technology, greatly raising China's scientific and technical levels in general. Chinese workers and technicians have succeeded in the technique of live-wire operation on ultra-high tension lines of up to 220,000 volts, built a 300,000-kilowatt turbogenerator with inner water-cooled stator and rotor, constructed the 6,700 metre double-track, double-decker Yangtze River Bridge at Nanking, and the trunk line in China's southwest, the 1,085 km-long Chengtu-Kunming Railway, made atomic and hydrogen bombs, and orbited man-made earth satellites. Important progress has also been made in atomic energy, laser, jet, computation, automatic control, radio electronics and other latest branches of science and technology, which are all new in China.

To break the embargo on petroleum supply imposed on China by the superpowers, the workers of the Taching Oilfield surmounted severe hardships and opened up this big

With the exploitation and construction of Taching Oilfield, China's petroleum industry has entered a new stage of development.
The Taching Refinery.

Producing more steel, to speed up socialist construction.

modern oilfield in a short period by combining their revolutionary enthusiasm with a scientific attitude. They have made a significant contribution to the self-supply of petroleum products. China began to export a certain amount of oil from 1973. Chairman Mao issued the great call to the Chinese people: **"In industry, learn from Taching,"** the national pace-setter in industry. The revolutionary spirit of the Taching oil-workers in daring to overcome difficulties exemplifies the heroism of the Chinese workers and technicians in ending the country's poverty and backwardness, and encourages all Chinese people to work harder for building up the country by self-reliance. After Taching, China went on to build the Oilfields of Takang and Shengli. The exploitation and construction of new oilfields is of great significance in speeding up China's petroleum industry, in changing the composition and distribution of fuel, and in promoting the development of China's national economy.

Under the guidance of Chairman Mao's policy of **"Maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands and relying on our own efforts,"** China has through hard work in the last twenty years and more won achievements in socialist industry by relying on the strength and wisdom of the people, employing domestic accumulation of funds and making full use of China's own natural resources.

Historically the most harmful river in the country, the Yellow River has been harnessed and controlled after liberation. Its abundant water resources have been utilized to serve the development of agricultural and industrial production.
Part of Liuchiahsia Hydro-Electric Power Station on the upper reaches of the Yellow River, the biggest of its kind in China.

Speeding up agricultural mechanization. Tractors destined for the countryside.

Socialist New Things Blooming Everywhere

A host of socialist new things full of vigour and vitality have emerged since the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Among the mushrooming new things are: the proletarian revolution in literature and art; revolution in education; educated young people settling in the countryside and mountainous areas; May 7 cadres schools; rural cooperative medical service and "barefoot doctors"; mass contingents of Marxist theoretical workers; etc.

The emergence of all these new things has strengthened the all-round dictatorship of the proletariat over the bourgeoisie in the realm of the superstructure, and this further helps consolidate and develop the socialist economic base.

The proletarian revolution in literature and art primarily began with Peking Opera. The revolutionary comrades on the literary and artistic front seriously carried out the proletarian revolutionary line in literature and art formulated by Chairman Mao, persisted in the orientation that literature and art should serve the workers, peasants and soldiers, and carried out the policies to **"let a hundred flowers blossom; weed through the old to bring forth the new"** and **"make the past serve the present and foreign things serve China."** These have borne bumper fruit.

Following the creation of the eight model revolutionary theatrical works, namely: The revolutionary modern Peking

Azalea Mountain (Peking Opera)

Battle in the Shipyard (modern play)

Red Flowers on the Grassland (Puppet play)

Ode to Yimeng
(Dance Drama)

Sparkling Red Star (Film)

Literary and art workers performing for commune members in Peking suburbs.

operas *Taking Tiger Mountain by Strategy, The Red Lantern, Shachiapang, On the Docks* and *Raid on the White Tiger Regiment,* the revolutionary modern dance-dramas *Red Detachment of Women* and *The White-Haired Girl* and the revolutionary symphonic musical piece *Shachiapang,* many new ones have been brought forth in the last few years. These include Peking opera singing from *The Red Lantern* with piano accompaniment; the piano concerto *The Yellow River;* the revolutionary modern Peking operas *Song of the Dragon River, Red Detachment of Women, Fighting on the Plains* and *Azalea Mountain;* the revolutionary modern dance-dramas *Ode to Yimeng* and *Children of the Grassland* and the revolutionary symphonic musical work *Taking Tiger Mountain by Strategy.*

The birth of modern revolutionary theatrical works nurtured by the proletariat announced that the revolutionary line in literature and art formulated by Chairman Mao in his "Talks at the Yenan Forum on Literature and Art" had obtained brilliant results through practice. The domination of the stage by emperors and kings, generals and ministers, scholars and beauties for so many centuries had come to an end, and the time had come for the worker-peasant-soldier heroes to lift their heads and occupy the centre of the stage. This was a change of great significance in the history of Chinese literature and art.

Since the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, China has unfolded a revolution in education. Under the guidance of Chairman Mao's educational line that **"education must serve proletarian politics and be combined with productive labor"** and **"enable everyone who receives an education to develop morally, intellectually and physically and become a worker with both socialist consciousness and culture,"** schools at all levels throughout the country are adopting measures to shorten the length of schooling, revolutionize the whole educational system, so as to better combine theory with practice. The teachers and students of primary and middle schools in the city and countryside have established contacts with nearby factories and production brigades to become acquainted with industrial work and farming. Where conditions permit, some primary and middle schools are also running small factories or small farms of their own. Combining teaching, scientific research and productive labour, colleges of science and engineering have established contacts with factories and also are running their own factories. The colleges of literature and art have persisted on the road of taking society as their factory and nurture the students with not only the thought of serving the people, but also with the ability to serve the people.

Since Chairman Mao issued in July 1968 the directive that **"students should be selected from among workers and peasants with practical experience, and they should return to production after a few years' study,"** batch after batch of worker-peasant-soldier students have entered the portals of the socialist universities.

In response to the call from Chairman Mao that **"It is highly necessary for young people with education to go to the countryside to be re-educated by the poor and lower-middle peasants,"** millions of school graduates in cities throughout the country have gone to the mountainous areas

Worker-peasant-soldier college students at class.

A young generation of school graduates is growing vigorously in the countryside.

and countryside, full of revolutionary pride and enthusiasm, and marched ahead along the broad road of integrating themselves with workers and peasants. This is of far-reaching significance for narrowing the gap between worker and peasant, town and country and manual and mental labour, and restricting bourgeois right. Through class education and practical class struggle, they constantly raised their consciousness of class struggle and the struggle between the two lines and their working ability. Here in the countryside large numbers of school graduates have set up scientific experimental groups, spare-time night schools and art troupes. Many of them have become bookkeepers, technicians in water conservancy, tractor drivers, middle and primary school teachers and "barefoot doctors". They have made positive contributions to building up a new socialist countryside.

May 7 cadre schools now have become a new type of cadre school in the period of socialism. In these schools cadres can read and study assiduously, and at the same time, take part in collective productive labour. They receive a lively and profound education in ideology and political line, in the revolutionary tradition of keeping in close touch with the masses and working hard. This is conducive to training vast numbers of cadres into good cadres who are conscious of the struggle between the two lines, work well at any post, high or low, and serve either as officials or remain one of the rank and file, keep close ties with the masses and serve the people wholeheartedly.

China's medical schools and colleges have trained a large number of medical workers in the two decades and more

Training barefoot doctors in the clinic of the Chiangchen People's Commune of Chuansha County on the outskirts of Shanghai.

Cadres in the May 7 cadre schools study Marxism and take part in collective productive labour, an excellent opportunity for restudy.

since liberation. But medical schools alone could not meet the need for doctors. In response to Chairman Mao's call **"In medical and health work, put the stress on the rural areas"** issued in 1965, urban medical and health units have gone to the countryside to help actively train "barefoot doctors." Now these "barefoot doctors" in rural China number more than 1.3 million. And most of the production brigades have set up their own cooperative medical service.

Groups of Marxist theoretical activists with workers, peasants, soldiers as the backbone are developing and expanding at this stage of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the current movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius. They study at fixed or spare times and help their workmates with the study of Marxist classics and the works of Chairman Mao. They also write collectively articles of criticism, and carry on research together with those comrades specialized in theoretical study.

The three-in-one combination of the old, the middle-aged and the young in leading bodies at all levels in which the old educate the young and in turn are spurred forward by them, makes a leading group stronger and more vigorous. It is designed to ensure that there will be successors to the older generation who initiated the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary cause in China, and that the coming generations will continue to advance along the Marxist-Leninist road.

The ranks of the worker-peasant-soldier theoretical contingent are expanding. Picture shows workers of Tientsin Railway Station studying political theory.

Financial Prosperity Improvement of People's Livelihood

China's revenue and expenditure have greatly increased with a favourable balance since liberation in 1949. This has ensured an adequate supply of funds to build up the socialist national economy by self-reliance. These funds have enabled China to develop science, culture and education, and steadily improve the people's material and cultural life. They have helped boost the circulation of commodities and stabilize prices.

China is now a country free of external and internal debts. As a result of a growing socialist economy and stable finances, China is completely free of the inflation and chaotic financial conditions characteristic of old China. The long term stability of the value of the Renminbi has gained it international prestige. And since 1968 a number of countries and regions, apart from other currencies currently used in international trade, have used the Renminbi in quoting prices and settling accounts in their economic dealings with China.

At present, though wage levels are not high, there is full employment and prices of daily necessities are low and stable, whilst rent, water and electricity charges only account for 4-5% of a worker's wage. There is no personal income tax. Employment and livelihood are ensured. All workers enjoy free medical treatment. Under government regulations, male factory and office workers may retire at 60; female factory workers at 50, female office workers at 55, and receive for life a pension of 50%, 60% or 70% of the wages at retirement according to the length of service.

Now, not only does the state have grain in reserve, but many production teams and peasant households have ample grain reserves too. The state ensures that the peasants' income increases steadily, by raising the state purchasing prices of agricultural and side-occupation products and reducing the market prices of agricultural means of production. Especially important is that our country practises the policy of not increasing tax for increased production. In addition the state allocates large agricultural subsidies every year to encourage agricultural production. In this way, the peasants are becoming increasingly better off.

In order to realize planned population growth, we are, on the basis of energetically developing production and improving the people's living standards, developing medical and health services throughout the rural and urban areas and strengthening our work in maternity and child-care, so as to reduce the mortality rate on the one hand and regulate the birth rate by family planning on the other.

This policy benefits the building up of the country, the thorough emancipation of women, the protection of women and children, the bringing up of the younger generation, the improvement of the people's health and the growth of national prosperity.

After liberation the state put up a lot of new housing. The labouring people's living conditions are constantly improving. Top: Newly constructed residences in Fangua Lane, Shanghai, a slum before liberation. Upper right: A new generation of residents. Lower right: Veteran worker who lived in this dilapidated hut of straw matting in the old days, is educating the children by comparing the new society with the old one.

This store offers a wide choice of garments in many patterns and designs.

Vegetable production around the cities has developed continuously to ensure an ample and varied supply of vegetables for residents.

Urban and rural bank savings are increasing all the time.

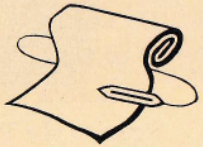
INCREASE IN TOTAL SALES OF RETAIL COMMODITIES

1974 sales rose 73.7% over 1965. Among which:

Sugar

91.3%

Cotton Cloth

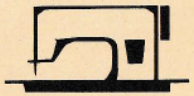


64.5%

Bicycles

160%

Sewing Machines

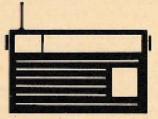


190%

Watches

290%

Transistor Radios



790%

Educated and nurtured by Mao Tsetung Thought, they are growing up healthily.

Front Cover:
Tien An Men, Peking.

CHINA COUNCIL FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
PEKING CHINA